



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Bill Dodd, Chair
Napa County and Cities

Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
Alameda County

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City and County of San Francisco

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

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Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

**Legislation Committee
December 12, 2008
Minutes**

Vice Chair Yeager called the committee to order at 11:20 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Azumbrado, Chu, Giacomini, Haggerty, Lempert, Spring, Worth. Also in attendance Commissioner Bates, Tissier.

Minutes of the Nov. 14, 2008 meeting were approved after a motion by Commissioner Chu and a second by Commissioner Worth.

**MTC Advisory Committee Work Plans —
Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)**

Ursula Vogler of MTC staff introduced EDAC member Rich Hedges, who reported on EDAC's 2007-08 work plan accomplishments and the work plan's update for 2008-09.

State Budget Update

Rebecca Long said the governor announced a new budget deadline of Jan. 15th, or else the Legislature remains in session until the budget is resolved.

Contract Amendment for Legislative Representation in Sacramento for FY 2008-09

Randy Rentschler reviewed a contract extension through Oct. 31, 2009 for Carter, Wetch & Associates for up to \$115,800 to provide legislative advocacy services for MTC. He said the Administration Committee approved the contract extension on Dec. 10th.

In the discussion that followed, the Commissioners gave direction that given the hard economic times, everyone is tightening their belts and that staff should seek to keep the contract amount the same as last year. Commissioner Azumbrado said that it would not be appropriate to deny a pay increase to one firm, on the grounds of poor economy, unless we were to deny it to all contractors. Staff was further directed to ask the legislative advocates to attend a future Commission meeting. With the understanding that a contract increase of up to 5 percent may not be exercised, the contract extension was approved after a motion by Commissioner Lempert and a second by Commissioner Chu.

Final 2009 Legislative Program

Mr. Rentschler presented the final program proposed for the 2009 state and federal legislative sessions. Regarding a proposed gasoline fee increase for the highway and road system, Commissioner Chu suggested requiring it to be annually adjusted for inflation. Mr. Rentschler addressed taxes vs. fees, and indicated that he would need to investigate the legality of indexing fees.

Commissioner Bates said having a coalition is important, and that the original Measure B failed on its first try because of not having enough for public transit. He said that what's needed is a dedicated revenue source. Also, he said that legislators are unlikely to support a fee.

Commissioner Worth commented on item six in the program that would seek to broaden STA eligibility for Lifeline purposes. Commissioner Worth noted that smaller systems were struggling with their basic system and allowing new uses of the funds could threaten existing services.

In response to Commissioner Giacomini, staff would return to the Committee with a scorecard to report on the agency's 2008 legislative program. Regarding the economic recovery proposal in Washington, D.C., Commissioner Yeager asked how the Bay Area can preclude competing against other projects in our own region. Steve Heminger advised against such decisions being made in Washington or through "earmarks," and indicated that we would be recommending that Congress use existing formulas that would preserve the Commission's decision-making authority, adding that the need is "broad and deep."

Following a motion by Commissioner Worth and second by Commissioner Chu, the 2009 legislative program, without any changes, was referred to the Commission for approval.

Tom Bulger's Report was received by the Committee.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

There was no public comment. The committee's next meeting was scheduled for Jan. 9, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.